

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 24 are amended, and claim 30 is added, leaving claims 1, 2-24 and 26-30 with claim 1 and 24 being independent. No new matter has been added.

Examiner Interview

Applicants appreciate the interview granted by the Examiner in this application. In the interview, the Examiner indicated that Lekutai and Hiroyuri did not disclose the claim element wherein one syllable represents a phoneme regarded as one sound and is either one vowel sound or a set of one vowel sound and one or more consonant sounds. However, the Examiner indicated that Mikizo disclosed this element. Applicants respectfully disagree as discussed in more detail below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3-23, 26, 27 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lekutai (U.S. 2005/0240391) in view of Mikizo (JP 3-194653) and further in view of Hiroyuri et al. (JP 2002-041081).

Applicants submit that the claims as now pending are allowable over the cited prior art. Specifically, amended independent claim 1 recites a speech recognition dictionary creation device for creating a speech recognition dictionary, the device comprising an abbreviated word generation unit operable to generate an abbreviated word of a recognition object that includes constituent words wherein one syllable represents a phoneme that is one sound and is either one vowel sound or a set of one vowel sound and one or more consonant sounds, wherein the abbreviated word generation unit is operable to generate the abbreviated word including one or more syllables by extracting one or more syllables from syllable strings of a plurality of constituent words and concatenating the extracted one or more syllables based on the syllable strings of the plurality of constituent words generated by a syllable string generation unit.

The cited prior art fails to disclose or render obvious such a device. In particular, Lekutai discloses a method and apparatus for text abbreviation. In particular, as discussed in paragraph [0032] of Lekutai, a message is abbreviated before transmission by the mobile station 100 to the

mobile station 130. That is, a message is transmitted by mobile station 100, and the message processor 136 in the mobile station 130 shortens the message prior to presenting the message on a display 135. However, as discussed with the Examiner, Lekutai clearly does not disclose a device wherein one syllable represents a phoneme that is one sound and is either one vowel sound or a set of one vowel sound and one or more consonant sounds.

Additionally, Hiroyuki discloses a text analyzer 2 that divides the input character into a word and finds all divided candidate words. As discussed with the Examiner, Hiroyuki does not disclose a device wherein one syllable represents a phoneme that is one sound and is either one vowel sound or a set of one vowel sound and one or more consonant sounds, but rather generates abbreviated words based on words.

With regard to Mikizo, the Examiner contends that each of the characters represents a syllable and therefore, Mikizo discloses a device wherein one syllable represents a phoneme regarded as one sound and is either one vowel sound or a set of one vowel sound and one or more consonant sounds. However, Mikizo discloses generating a character index as to respective Kanji characters. *See* Mikizo Abstract and the May 12, 2010 Office Action, pg. 5. Thus, Mikizo does not disclose a syllable that is a phoneme regarded as one sound. As one or ordinary skill in the art would understand, a phoneme is one of a small set of speech sounds that are distinguished by the speakers of a particular language. Thus, the present invention, as recited in claim 1 is directed to a device that generates an abbreviated word by performing concatenation on a syllable including one vowel sound or a set of one vowel and one or more consonant sounds. One the other hand, Mikizo discloses generating abbreviated words based on Kanji characters.

Therefore, Applicants submit that Mikizo fails to disclose this element of independent claim 1. Moreover, there is no reasoning in the prior art to modify Mikizo, Lekutai or Hiroyuki such that the combination thereof would have rendered independent claim 1 obvious. Applicants submit that for at least these reasons, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited prior art.

Claims 24 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lekutai in view of Mikizo.

Applicants submit that amended independent claim 24 and claim 28 are allowable over the cited prior art for similar reasons to those set forth above. Namely, the cited prior art fails to

disclose or render obvious a speech recognition dictionary creation method for creating a speech recognition dictionary, comprising generating, with use of the abbreviated word generation unit, an abbreviated word of a recognition object that includes a plurality of constituent words based on a rule that takes into account ease of pronunciation wherein one syllable represents a phoneme that is one sound and is either one vowel sound or a set of one vowel sound and one or more consonant sounds, and wherein the abbreviated word generation unit is operable to generate the abbreviated word including one or more syllables by extracting one or more syllables from syllable strings of a plurality of constituent words and concatenating the extracted one or more syllables based on the syllable strings of the plurality of constituent words generated by a syllable string generation unit, as recited in independent claim 24.

New Claim 30

Applicants submit that new claim 30 is allowable for the reasons set forth above, since it is dependent from independent claim 1. Moreover, claim 30 recites additional subject matter that further distinguishes it over the cited prior art. In particular, claim 30 recites that the abbreviated word generation unit is operable to generate the abbreviated word by deleting one or more syllables from the syllable strings generated by said syllable string generation unit. Such an element is not disclose nor rendered obvious by the cited prior art.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now pending in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe there are any remaining issues that must be resolved before this application can be allowed, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoshiyuki OKIMOTO

/Jeffrey J. Howell/

By 2010.08.02 14:09:52 -04'00'

Jeffrey J. Howell

Registration No. 46,402

Attorney for Applicant

JJH/etc
Washington, D.C. 20005-1503
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
August 2, 2010